

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Safe Talking in Cyberspace

Sita likes to visit a Web site where kids can post messages about their favorite TV shows, school, and current events. She really likes the kid who uses the screen name CJcool11. When Sita shares a problem she has at school, CJcool11 always has good ideas for handling the problem. Sita thinks of CJcool11 as a friend.

One day, while messaging, CJcool11 and Sita compare their two schools. Sita types, "My school principal is so strict. We have to walk through the halls in straight lines!"

CJcool11 answers, "My school isn't so strict. What's the name of your school?"

Sita types back, "Uh, my school's name is too hard to spell."

CJcool11 types, "So where is your school?"

What should Sita answer?



What makes this answer a good one?

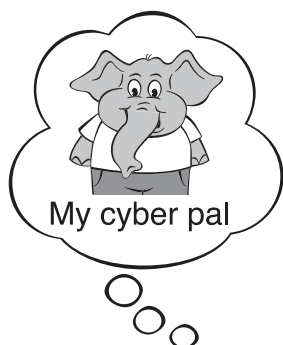
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## It's Okay to Talk Online

Sita and CJcool11 are cyber pals, not face-to-face friends. They only know each other from messaging online. It's okay to talk with pals in cyberspace. Cyber pals can have very good talks. They can share their feelings. They can talk about problems they might not share with friends at school.

## Cyber Pals

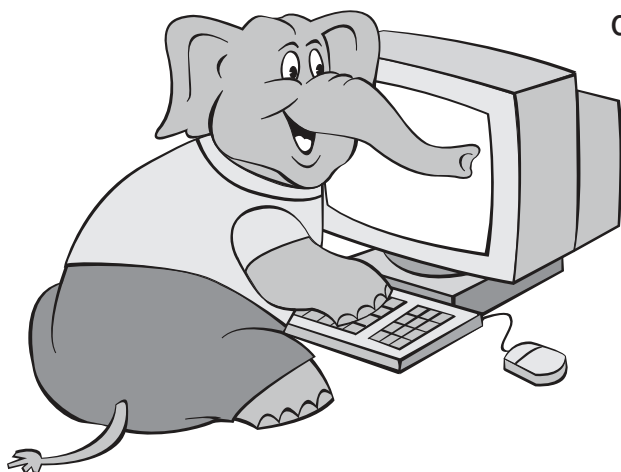
Can you ever really know if a cyber pal is male or female? Can you know for sure how old he or she is? The answer is NO—you can't know for sure. That's the difference between a cyber pal and a friend you know face to face. So you should treat cyber pals like strangers you meet on the street. Never give them private information about yourself without first asking permission from your parent or guardian.



## Choose Chat and Messaging Just for Kids

If you want to talk to cyber pals, visit Web sites just for kids. Most of these sites have chat and messaging with adult monitors. A *monitor* is like a referee at a game.

The monitor keeps the chat on topic. The monitor makes sure everyone uses good manners and stays safe.



## Be CyberSmart!<sup>®</sup>

Know the kinds of private information:

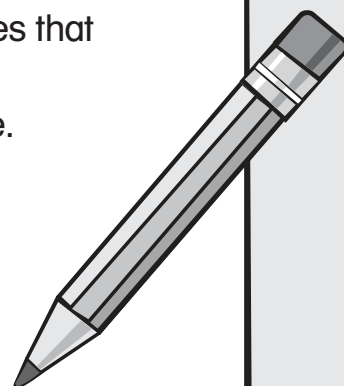
- full name
- street address
- name of school
- school address
- e-mail address
- phone numbers
- passwords
- calling card number
- mother's maiden name
- parent's place of work
- photos in which you can be recognized

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## Cyberspace Talk Safety Checklist

You're ready to go online when you can check that each statement about you is true.

- ☐ My parents say it's okay for me to chat and message online.
- ☐ I will only chat and message on kids' Web sites that have monitors.
- ☐ I will never reply to, or click on a link in, an IM from someone who is not a face-to-face friend.
- ☐ I will pick chat and messaging screen names that do not include private identity information.
- ☐ I know what kinds of information are private.
- ☐ I will not give out private information when talking online.
- ☐ I will not answer questions that make me uncomfortable.
- ☐ I will leave the site and tell a trusted adult if someone bothers me online.
- ☐ I will never meet someone face to face that I met online without bringing a parent or guardian with me.



Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_